

Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 – Expedited Procedure
Serial No.: 10/042,556
Examiner: Daniel Swerdlow

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5, 8-15, and 17-26 remain in this application. Claims 6-7 and 16 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended.

Claims 1-19, 21 and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over May (6,329,800), Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over May (6,329,800) in view of Shimamori (6,204,650), and Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over May (6,329,800) in view of Harris (6,333,654). Claims 6 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Further, the Examiner has acknowledged that claims 7-9, 17-18, 20, 23, and 25 are directed to allowable subject matter.

To facilitate immediate allowance of claims in the present application, though Applicant has viable arguments against the above-noted standing rejections, Applicant has canceled Claims 6 and 16 and amended independent Claims 1 and 10 to include subject matter which the Examiner acknowledged as allowable. More specifically, subject matter of Claim 7 (noted as allowable in paragraph 17 of the Office Action dated 4/26/2005) has been included in all independent claims. For at least this reason, Applicant believes the claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-5 and 8-9; and 11-15 and 17-26 depends from and further limits, in a patentable sense, independent claims 1 and 10 respectively and, hence, are also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

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It is believed that the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance; therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of all pending claims and full allowance of same. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

ALCATEL



Bobby D. Slaton

Reg. No. 43,130

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Alcatel USA
Intellectual Property Department
3400 W. Plano Parkway, M/S LEGL2
Plano, TX 75075
Phone: (972) 519-2295
Fax: (972) 477-9328

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